



00862.002583 (862.2583)

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
Hitoshi ONODA, et al. ) : Examiner: Timothy J. Henn  
Appln. No.: 09/217,937 ) : Group Art Unit: 2612  
Filed: December 22, 1998 ) :  
For: OPTICAL DEVICE AND METHOD ) :  
FOR SELECTING OBJECT OF FOCUS : February 7, 2006 .

**Mail Stop Amendment**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Sir:

Introductory Comments

Applicants, having timely filed a Notice of Appeal on September 7, 2005, respectfully petition the Commissioner for Patents to extend the time for taking further action for three months, from November 7, 2005, to February 7, 2006. Submitted herewith is a check for \$1,020.00 to cover the fee for the additional extension under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17. Any deficiency in or overpayment of this fee should be charged or credited to Deposit Account No. 06-1205.

Further to the July 26, 2005 Amendment After Final Rejection, and prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows: